

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A gas lighting rod comprising a gas release valve and a piezoelectric igniting system, both operated by a spring-loaded operating member, and a spring-loaded safety member which has to be operated to release the operating member, wherein the operating member is arranged to move in a primarily transverse direction to the axis of the lighting rod but angled to include a subordinate longitudinal movement towards the gas release valve when operated.
2. (Original) A gas lighting rod according to claim 1 wherein the casing of the lighting rod includes a substantially straight portion through one end of which the operating member is accessible.
3. (Original) A gas lighting rod according to claim 2 wherein said substantially straight portion is substantially at right angles to the direction of movement of the operating member.
4. (Original) A gas lighting rod comprising a gas release valve and a piezoelectric igniting system, both operated by a spring-loaded operating member, and a spring-loaded safety member which has to be operated to release the operating member, wherein the piezoelectric igniting system includes a piezoelectric member which is carried on the operating member and engages against a fixed stop when the operating member is operated.
5. (Original) A gas lighting system according to claim 4 wherein the piezoelectric member is carried in a bore in the operating member.
6. (Original) A gas lighting system according to claim 4 wherein the operating member includes a bore for receiving a portion of the safety member.

7. (Original) A gas lighting system according to claim 4 wherein the piezoelectric member is carried in a first bore in the operating member and the operating member includes a second bore, substantially parallel to the first bore, for receiving a portion of the safety member.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A gas lighting rod according to claim 4 including a lever one end of which controls the gas release valve and the other end of which engages with the piezoelectric member.